

Rep. Peter Welch spent Saturday morning fishing on Lake Champlain to encourage Vermonters to get out and enjoy all the lake and local businesses have to offer. Lake and recreational related business has been slow due to the unusually wet spring in Vermont.

Welch stopped at Ace Hardware in Colchester Saturday morning to purchase a three-day fishing license. There he met with local small business owners as well as the executive director of Lake Champlain International, James Elhers, to discuss the impact to businesses caused by the high amounts of rainfall this spring.

"The rainy start to the year has been tough on businesses who rely on recreational tourism like fishing and boating," Welch said. "But we're here today and the lake is definitely open for business. Lake Champlain is a great natural resource and I encourage Vermonters to get out and enjoy it."

"Given the weather this spring, not as many folks have been able to enjoy the lake," Executive Director of Lake Champlain International James Elhers said. "Our friends and neighbors in businesses and jobs that rely on people coming to the region to boat, sail, paddle, swim, and fish are struggling with the slow start to the year. We're hoping to encourage folks to come out and share in our appreciation of the lake and the communities that make Champlain the special place that is."

Following the discussion, Welch made his way to the Malletts Bay boat ramp where he headed out on the lake to enjoy a morning of fishing. Welch was joined by Elhers and boat owner Ron Winters.

Welch reminded that boaters, as always, exercise caution when out on the lake.